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Department of State

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March 20, 1975

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SUBJECT:

OVIP (Kissinger, Henry A.)

Remarks of Israeli Defense Minister
 Shimon Peres and Secretary of State
 Henry A. Kissinger following a
 Meeting of the American and Israeli
 Negotiating Teams on March 20, 1975
 in Jerusalem

DEPT PASS NSCE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND NESSEN;

1. Following are the remarks of Israeli Defense
 Minister Peres and Secretary Kissinger following the
 meeting of the Israeli and American negotiating
 teams during the morning and early afternoon of
 March 20, 1975.

2. Peres: BEGIN QUOTE: As you know, the cabinet

yesterday empowered the team of ministers that is

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negotiating with the Secretary of State to continue the negotiations, and in order to do so we had to clarify some points. This was done at the morning meeting which was, as usual, ~~XXXXXX~~ conducted in a very friendly and serious air. Once we have the clarifications we are now returning to the cabinet to report. That is the best news I can give you for the time being. Thank you.

Secretary
3. /Kissinger: I can add nothing to the statement that the minister of Defense has made. We had a good, constructive and friendly meeting and I will stay in Jerusalem until after the cabinet meeting and meet again with our colleagues before I return to Egypt this evening. Thank you.

4. Q: Dr. Kissinger, are you more confident now that you received the assessment of the Israeli cabinet, ~~unfathomable~~ that an agreement can take place?

A. Sec. Kissinger: Well, I have told you all along that I wasn't going to give you estimates. I do feel that each side is making a very serious effort to try to take into account the considerations of the other, and this is certainly true of the Israeli side.

5. E Q: Sir, do you have plans to see Mr. Gromyko in

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the next few days?

S: Sec Kissinger: I do not have any firm plans at this moment. END QUOTE.

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